

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are pending in the present application.

A certified copy of foreign priority document 20035172 will be provided to the Examiner.

The drawing has been corrected to delete the expression "Figure 1."

The objections to claims 2 and 7 have been overcome in the manner requested by the Examiner.

Claims 2, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is traversed. The corrections made in these claims overcome the objections and rejections set forth by the Examiner. The Applicants are willing to make additional corrections, if necessary, in order to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112.

The arguments made by the applicant with respect to USP 6,582,509 have been rendered moot in view of a new ground of rejection. The Examiner cites a newly discovered reference to US 5,851,461 of Bakis et al to address method (a) of claim 2.

Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,851,461 to Bakis et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

As noted in the Bakis et al. '461 reference, the polysaccharide derivatives may be alginic acid or hyaluronic acid. These are anionic products that are chelated with multivalent ions.

In column 3, lines 19-26, it is stated that the processing of the polysaccharide is carried out in an alkaline medium into which it dissolves. In contrast, the present invention does not

require an alkali to dissolve the starches used. They are either water-soluble starches, starches that gelatinize in water or starch esters which are insoluble in water, but which are used as dispersions thereof.

The Bakis et al patent does not teach, suggest or motivate one skilled in the art to meet the terms of the claimed subject matter. Indeed, the Examiner makes note of the fact that Bakis et al. do not expressly teach that the average size of bubbles is less than approximately 10 micrometers or that Bakis et al. do not expressly teach a water gel of starch; see page 5 of the Office Action. Hindsight is not a valid basis for rejection, and it is submitted that the claims herein are not anticipated or rendered obvious without the use of hindsight in making the rejection.

Favorable action on the claims is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond C. Stewart, Registration No. 21066, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: March 2, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By R. C. Stewart  
Raymond C. Stewart  
Registration No.: 21,066  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
703-205-8000

Attachment: Replacement Figure